



City of Northfield Declares Local Emergency to Allow Rapid Response to Repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

For Immediate Release

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Northfield— The Northfield City Council took action “Declaring a Local Emergency” this evening to allow staff to forego certain bidding procedures to provide a more rapid response to order necessary equipment and repairs at the wastewater plant following recent mechanical damage. There is no public health or environmental concerns related to the emergency repairs and has no direct impact to wastewater customers.

On January 8, 2018 the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) experienced significant wastewater flooding in the lower level of the Biological Aerated Filter Building. Flooding occurred in the lower level due to a pipe plug failure causing partially treated wastewater to fill the lower level.

City staff responded to the incident and began to pump out the lower level of the building. During pumping operations, a pipe came loose that resulted in the discharge of 300-400 gallon of partially treated wastewater on and contained within the WWTP property. City staff submitted a mandated report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) related to the discharge. There is no public health or environmental concerns related to this discharge.

The City Council emergency declaration this evening allows staff to forego certain bidding procedures in an effort to expedite contracting and replacement of the damaged equipment in the lower level of the building. The emergency declaration made by the City Council will continue for a period not to exceed 21 days from the date of approval unless authorized by further action of the City Council.

For more information, contact Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett at 507-645-3020 or david.bennett@ci.northfield.mn.us